

Pastor Chris Davis, Kelso Nazarene Church, gave the invocation. Mayor Don Gregory led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Don Gregory. Councilmembers in attendance were: Gregory, Slater, Chester, McDaniel, Wheeler, Keolker, and Fletcher.

Minutes:

Upon Motion by Councilmember Chester and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Approve the minutes of the 3/1/05 Regular Meeting,' motion carried, all voting yes.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS:

Jim Williams, 809 N. Pacific Avenue, Kelso, requested a copy of the plans for the new road being put in between Harris and the cutoff towards Huntington Junior High School. Public Works Director David Sypher noted plans are available for this project which will go out for bid in approximately 11 months. Mr. Williams also inquired about getting additional speed signs posted and starting a block watch in his neighborhood due to the increased drug activity. He was directed to talk to the Police Department about setting up the neighborhood watch. Staff will look at the possibility of adding additional speed signs in this area.

Sarah Swope, 807 N Pacific Avenue, Kelso, would like to have more patrols near her residence. Cars and motorcycles race up and down the alley in the wee hours of the morning and an abandon car was recently set on fire. Chief Nelson made a note of this request.

Kari L. Miller, 701 Allen Street, Kelso, indicated she has concerns about lighting on her street. Parking is on the opposite side of the street making it dangerous to cross the street. Public Works Director David Sypher reported lights from 8th to the freeway have been turned on and he will look at this area this week. Because this is a State highway, we have contacted the State and they are looking at this issue. Mrs. Miller stated the community stairway on the left side of her house also needs more lighting. There is garbage and glass and vagrants have been living there. City Manager Robinson said the City owns this stairway and they will look at this area. There is an abandoned house at 703 Allen Street with a lot of garbage and the brush is so high it's hard to see to back out of the driveway. Kent Anderson, Community Development Director, will address this situation.

PRESENTATION:

Chief Wayne Nelson **recognized Sgt. Mike Dalen**, who has been with the Kelso Police Department for 18 years. On February 16, 2005, behind our new City Hall where the police officers park, a man pulled up in a pickup truck and motioned for the officer to

come over to his vehicle. As Sgt. Dalen approached the vehicle, he noticed the man was very agitated and had a hand gun. The individual told the officer not to come any closer because he was going to kill himself. The man didn't have his hand on the gun so, in a split second, Sgt. Dalen lunged through the window, grabbed the gun with one hand, and held the suspect up against the seat with the other hand. Sgt. Dalen secured the gun and took the gentlemen into custody. In 1991 KPD arrested this man for murdering his wife and he was recently released from prison. The man's life was saved because of the alertness, decisiveness, and courage of Sgt. Mike Dalen. Chief Nelson presented Mike with a Certificate of Commendation. Mayor Gregory thanked Sgt. Dalen and all of the officers for the work they do every day.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Liquor License Assumption: Three Rivers Golf Enterprises, LLC

Liquor License Renewals: 1) American Legion Guy Rathbun Post 25, 2) Azteca, 3) Kelso Bridge Market, 4) Ol Tima', 5) Maltese Bar and Grill, 6) B.P.O. Elks Kelso Lodge 1482

Auditing of Accounts: \$893,781.56

Upon Motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Approve the Consent Agenda and the Auditing of Accounts for \$893,781.56,' motion carried, all voting yes.

MOTION ITEM:

Ordinance (1st Reading) – Amending Ordinance No. 3008 Regulating Private

Investigators: The City Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by Title only. Upon Motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Pass on 1st Reading, 'AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3008, CODIFIED AS KMC 5.40, REGULATING THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES,' motion carried, all voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Doug Robinson: 1) We are proposing the date of April 30th for the Council Retreat. 2) Councilmembers are invited to attend a Labor Business Rally at R A Long Park on March 18 from noon to 1:00 p.m. 3) The Stan Rister Dedication will be May 21st. I am handing out a picture of the proposed plaque for the stadium which is being done by the Southwest Foundation showing those who have volunteered or donated funds. 4) Our Comprehensive Plan at the park calls for the median area to be removed. I hope eventually this will become part of the parking lot. 5) Currently there are many legislative issues at the State and Federal level. Federally, there is a plan to do away with the Community Development Block Grant Program. It appears that the Home Program

will continue. The main thrust will be towards job creation and transportation projects with money targeted towards rural communities.

STAFF REPORTS:

David Sypher: No Report. Councilmember McDaniel inquired about the stadium project and especially the parking. David reported the project is on schedule and deadlines should be met by the date of the dedication. Will look into the parking issue and report back to Council.

Kent Anderson: 1) Want to encourage Councilmembers, Planning Commission members, and business owners to attend the Downtown Revitalization Institute in Centralia April 27-29th. 2) Councilmember McDaniel asked about the property at Allen & 23rd. Kent reported a church has purchased the property and they are in process of obtaining permits. 3) Councilmember Slater mentioned the house off Burcham, north of the park, which burned. A neighboring house, which was built to code, also caught on fire because of a lean-to addition that was built up to the property line. David Sypher is looking at the area and will meet with the people concerning a possible rebuild.

Geraldine Veenstra: 1) I have some positive news from the library. Circulation is up 18% from last year for the 1st two months of this year. Reference, the amount of support we give patrons coming to the library, is up 52%. 2) We have donated a collection of paperback books to the Women's Shelter. We plan to renew the collection quarterly.

Wayne Nelson: 1) Last Thursday, March 10, we started our 10th annual Police Citizens' Academy, which is a 10-week program. There are around 30 in the class. 2) In anticipating of Joe Dieter's retirement in June, we gave the first part of the sergeant's promotional examination to six officers. I am happy to report all six passed the written portion. Oral boards will continue next week.

Verly Anderson: No Report

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Joe Wheeler: 1) The Cowlitz Transit Authority joined the new Washington State Pool of Transit Authority Insurance. 2) I attended the Airport Board Meeting. The trees at the airport have been chipped and the bark is ready to spread.

Todd McDaniel: 1) I attended a Library Board meeting. Chairman Rick Roberson has been in contact with Skip Dunlap who is the head of the Longview Library Board. We are all working together to discuss ways to start a regional library. 2) I am handing out a report for Kelso Youth Baseball which shows we had 336 kids sign up this year. Upcoming events noted on the report are the President's Cup Tournament on March 24 to 26 and Opening Ceremonies on April 16.

David Fletcher: Recently, we have been talking about the Visitor's Center. There is a recent change of administration at the Chamber of Commerce that may provide us with a new prospective as we go through this process.

Alan Slater: I am wondering what is happening with our real estate because there are so many foreclosures listed. Many of these houses are priced too high.

Mark Chester: 1) Want to thank the people who spoke earlier. I encourage them to get with Chief Nelson to get a block watch started. I also agree with the lady who spoke earlier about the lighting on Allen Street. My wife and I walk at night and it is a bad place to walk. 2) I want to reiterate what I said at the last meeting about the dryness problem. We will see some bad fire problems if homeowners don't take care of brush and problem areas now.

Jack Keolker: 1) I want to thank the staff and the Baseball Association for the outstanding work they have done on the Stan Rister Stadium. 2) Congratulations to Betty Erickson for her appointment by the County Commissioners to the Public Facilities District Board. 3) Want to thank Chief Nelson and the Police Department for the wonderful job they do. 4) Thanks to Community Development Director Kent Anderson for the great project he did across from Trophies. The whole block looks much better.

Jim Williams inquired from the audience about sewer line projects. Public Works Director David Sypher said the Academy Sewer Line will be done this year and we hope to get bids this year on the North Kelso Sewer Line.

Don Gregory: 1) Earlier this evening we passed around a card to send to Vicki Stewart, daughter of Floyd Carpenter who passed away. Floyd, who is known by many of us, served on the Housing Authority for many years. Floyd's son, who came to see his dad before he died, tragically had a heart attack and passed away on Sunday, a few days before Floyd's death. The memorial service for Floyd and his son was yesterday. 2) Councilmember Wheeler indicated he thinks the Council needs to make some decisions about whether or not the street lights should be turned on. Mayor Gregory suggested, due to the tight budget, City Manager Robinson and Public Works Director Sypher need to figure out the cost and present to the Council to see if there is funding available. Further discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Council convened into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and land purchase. At 9:13 p.m. the Council reconvened into Regular Session.

Upon Motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember Chester, **'Authorize Purchase of property at the airport from John Leber,'** motion carried, all voting yes.

Upon Motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, 'Move to Adjourn,' motion carried, all voting yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK